

CHAPTER 336

LIBRARY DISTRICTS

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336.1 Reserved.

336.2 Library districts formed.

A library district may be established composed of one or more counties, one or more cities, or any combination of cities and counties.

Eligible electors residing within the proposed district in a number not less than five percent of those voting for president of the United States or governor, as the case may be, within the district at the last general election may petition the board of supervisors of the county, or the city council, for the establishment of the library district. The petition shall clearly designate the area to be included in the district.

The board of supervisors of each county and the city council of each city containing area within the proposed district shall submit the question to the registered voters within their respective counties and cities at the next general election. The petition shall be filed not less than eighty-two days before the election.

A library district shall be established if a majority of the electors voting on the question and residing in the proposed library district favor its establishment.

The result of the election within cities maintaining a free public library shall be considered separately, and no city shall be included within the library district unless a majority of its electors voting on the question favor its inclusion. In such cases the boundaries of an established district may vary from those of the proposed district.

After the establishment of a library district other areas may be included by mutual agreement of the board of trustees of the library district and the governing body of the area sought to be included.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.2]

C93, §336.2

95 Acts, ch 67, §53; 2001 Acts, ch 158, §26; 2002 Acts, ch 1134, §96, 115

Referred to in [§331.381](#)

336.3 Gifts.

When a gift for library purposes is accepted by a county or city, its use for the library may be enforced against the board of supervisors or city council by the library board by an action of mandamus or by other proper action.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §358B.3; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1072]

C93, §336.3

2001 Acts, ch 158, §27

Referred to in [§331.381](#)

336.4 Library trustees.

In any area in which a library district has been established in accordance with [this chapter](#), a board of library trustees, consisting of five, seven, or nine electors of the library district, shall be appointed by the board of supervisors of any county or city comprising the library district. Membership on the library board shall be apportioned between the rural and city areas of the district in proportion to the population in each of such areas. In the event the

library district is composed of two or more counties, two or more cities, or any combination of counties and cities, representation on the library board shall be equitably divided between or among the counties and cities in proportion to the population in each of the counties and cities.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.4]

C93, §336.4

2001 Acts, ch 158, §28

Referred to in [§331.321](#), [331.381](#)

336.5 Terms.

Of said trustees so appointed on boards to consist of nine members, three shall hold office for two years, three for four years, and three for six years; on boards to consist of seven members, two shall hold office for two years, two for four years, and three for six years; and on boards to consist of five members, one shall hold office for two years, two for four years, and two for six years, from the first day of July following their appointment in each case. At their first meeting they shall cast lots for their respective terms, reporting the result of such lot to the board of supervisors. All subsequent appointments, whatever the size of the board, shall be for terms of six years each. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms by the governing body of the taxing unit of the district represented by the retiring member.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.5]

C93, §336.5

Referred to in [§331.321](#), [331.381](#)

336.6 Removal or absence of trustee.

The board of library trustees may declare the office of a trustee vacant by the trustee's removal from the library district or the trustee's unexplained absence from six consecutive regular meetings.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.6]

C93, §336.6

336.7 No compensation.

Members of said board shall receive no compensation for their services.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.7]

C93, §336.7

336.8 Powers.

Said board of library trustees shall have and exercise the following powers:

1. To meet and organize by the election of one of their number as president of the board, and by the election of a secretary and such other officers as the board may deem necessary.
2. To have charge, and supervision of the public library, its appurtenances and fixtures, and rooms containing the same, directing and controlling all the affairs of such library.
3. To employ a librarian, such assistants and employees as may be necessary for the proper management of said library, and fix their compensation; but, prior to such employment, the compensation of such librarian, assistants, and employees shall be fixed for the term of employment by a majority of the members of said board voting in favor thereof.
4. To remove such librarian, assistants, or employees by a vote of two-thirds of such board for misdemeanor, incompetency, or inattention to the duties of such employment.
5. To select and make purchases of books, pamphlets, magazines, periodicals, papers, maps, journals, furniture, fixtures, stationery, and supplies for such library.
6. To authorize the use of such libraries by school corporations or by nonresidents of the area which is taxed to support such libraries and to fix charges therefor.
7. To make and adopt, amend, modify, or repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the care, use, government, and management of such library and the business of said board, fixing and enforcing penalties for the violation thereof.
8. To have exclusive control of the expenditures for library purposes as provided by law, and of the expenditures of all moneys available by gift or otherwise for the erection of library buildings. The board shall keep a record of its proceedings.

9. To accept gifts of any property, including trust funds; to take the title to said property in the name of said library; to execute deeds and bills of sale for the conveyance of said property; and to expend the funds received by them from such gifts, for the improvement of said library.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.8]

83 Acts, ch 123, §162, 209

C93, §336.8

336.9 Methods of service.

Library service shall be accomplished by one or more of the following methods in whole or in part:

1. By the establishment of depositories of books or other educational materials to be loaned at stated times and places.

2. By the transportation of books and other educational materials by conveyances for lending the same at stated times and places.

3. By the establishment of branch libraries for lending books and other educational materials.

4. By contracting for library service with a free public library of any city.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.9]

C93, §336.9

336.10 Library fund.

All moneys received and set apart for the maintenance of the library shall be deposited in the treasury of the county or city, as determined by the board of library trustees, and paid out upon warrants drawn by the county or city auditor upon requisition of the board of trustees, signed by its president and secretary.

Provided that where a free public library is maintained jointly by two or more counties or cities or any combination of counties and cities, the library trustees may elect a library treasurer, and it shall be the duty of the city and county treasurers to pay over to the library treasurer any and all library taxes that may be collected by them monthly.

The library treasurer shall be required to furnish a bond conditioned as provided by [section 64.2](#) in an amount as agreed upon by the participating boards of supervisors and city councils and the cost shall be paid by the participating counties and cities.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §358B.10; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1073]

83 Acts, ch 123, §163, 209

C93, §336.10

2001 Acts, ch 158, §29

336.11 Annual report.

The board of trustees shall, immediately after the close of each fiscal year, submit to the board of supervisors, and the city council, as appropriate, a report containing a statement of the condition of the library, the number of books added thereto, the number circulated, the number not returned or lost, the amount of fines collected, and the amount of money expended in the maintenance thereof during such year, together with such further information as it may deem important.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.11]

C93, §336.11

2001 Acts, ch 158, §30

336.12 Real estate acquired.

In any county or city in which a free library has been established, the board of library trustees may purchase real estate in the name of the county or city for the location of library buildings and branch libraries, and for the purpose of enlarging the grounds.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.12]

C93, §336.12

2001 Acts, ch 158, §31

336.13 Maintenance expense on proportionate basis.

The maintenance of a library established in accordance with [this chapter](#) shall be on the basis of each participating unit bearing its share of the total cost in proportion to its population as compared to the total population of the library district. The board of library trustees shall make an estimate of the amount necessary for the maintenance of the library, the sources of direct library revenue, and the amount to be contributed from taxes or other revenues by the participating city or county and hold a hearing on the estimate after notice of the hearing is published as provided in [section 331.305](#) or [section 362.3](#), as appropriate. On or before January 10 of each year, the board of library trustees shall transmit the estimate in dollars to the board of supervisors and to the cities participating in the district. The unincorporated area of each county in the library district shall be considered as a separate supporting unit. Each board of supervisors shall review the estimate and appropriate for library purposes its share in the county rural services fund budget. Each city council shall review the estimate for the city and appropriate for library purposes its share in the city general fund budget. Each participating city or county shall contribute its share from taxation or from other sources available for library purposes on an equitable basis. With approval of a city council, the county treasurer may withhold a reasonable portion of the taxes collected for a city to meet the city's contribution for library purposes and deliver a receipt to the city clerk for the amount withheld.

[This section](#) shall not affect the taxing authority provided under [section 256.69](#).

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §358B.13; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1074; 82 Acts, ch 1104, §13]

83 Acts, ch 123, §164, 209; 84 Acts, ch 1168, §1

C93, §336.13

2001 Acts, ch 158, §32

336.14 Not applicable to contract service.

The provisions of [this chapter](#) pertaining to the establishment of a library district shall not apply to any area receiving library service from any city library, unless the petition for a library district, in addition to the required signatures of electors, is signed by the governing body of the area receiving library service under contract.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.14]

C93, §336.14

2001 Acts, ch 158, §33

336.15 Existing contracts assumed.

Whenever a library district is established in accordance with [this chapter](#), its board of trustees shall assume all the obligations of the existing contracts made by cities, townships, school corporations, or counties to receive library service from free public libraries.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.15]

C93, §336.15

2001 Acts, ch 158, §34

336.16 Withdrawal from district — termination.

A city may withdraw from the library district upon a majority vote in favor of withdrawal by the electorate of the city in an election held on a motion by the city council. The election shall be held simultaneously with a general or city election. Notice of a favorable vote to withdraw shall be sent by certified mail to the board of library trustees of the library district and the county auditor or city clerk, as appropriate, prior to January 10, and the withdrawal shall be effective on July 1.

A county may withdraw from the district after a majority of the voters of the unincorporated area of the county voting on the issue favor the withdrawal. The board of supervisors shall call for the election which shall be held at the next general election.

A city or county election shall not be called until a hearing has been held on the proposal to submit a proposition of withdrawal to an election. A hearing may be held only after public notice published as provided in [section 362.3](#) in the case of a city or [section 331.305](#) in the case

of a county. A copy of the notice submitted for publication shall be mailed to the library on or before the date of publication. The proposal presented at the hearing must include a plan for continuing adequate library service with or without all participants and the respective allocated costs and levels of service shall be stated. At the hearing, any interested person shall be given a reasonable time to be heard, either for or against the withdrawal or the plan to accompany it.

A library district may be terminated if a majority of the electors of the unincorporated area of the county and the cities included in the library district voting on the issue favor the termination. The election shall be held upon motion of the board of supervisors and simultaneously with a general or other county election. If the vote favors termination, the termination shall be effective on the succeeding July 1.

An election for withdrawal from or termination of a library district shall not be held more than once each four years.

[C54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.16]

84 Acts, ch 1168, §2; 85 Acts, ch 125, §1

C93, §336.16

2001 Acts, ch 158, §35; 2002 Acts, ch 1119, §51; 2002 Acts, ch 1134, §97, 115

336.17 Historical association.

If a local county historical association is formed in a county having a free public library, the trustees of the library may unite with the historical association and set apart the necessary room to care for articles which come into the possession of the association. The trustees may purchase necessary receptacles and materials for the preservation and protection of articles which are of a historical and educational nature.

[S13, §729-e; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §5864; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §378.16; C75, 77, 79, 81, §358B.17]

83 Acts, ch 123, §165, 209

C93, §336.17

336.18 Contracts to use city library.

1. A school corporation, township, or library district may contract for the use by its residents of a city library. A contract by a county shall supersede all contracts by townships or school corporations within the county outside of cities.

2. *a.* Contracts shall provide for the amount to be contributed. They may, by mutual consent of the contracting parties, be terminated at any time. They may also be terminated by a majority of the voters represented by either of the contracting parties, voting on the question to terminate which shall be submitted by the governing body upon a written petition of eligible electors in a number not less than five percent of those who voted in the area for president of the United States or governor at the last general election.

b. The question may be submitted at any election provided by law which covers the area of the unit seeking to terminate the contract. The petition shall be presented to the governing body not less than ten days before the last day candidates may file nomination petitions for the election at which the question is to be submitted.

3. The board of trustees of any township which has entered into a contract shall at the April meeting levy a tax not exceeding six and three-fourths cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable property in the township to create a fund to fulfill its obligation under the contract.

4. *a.* Eligible electors of that part of any county outside of cities in a number of not less than twenty-five percent of those in the area who voted for president of the United States or governor at the last general election may petition the board of supervisors to submit the question of requiring the board to provide library service for them and their area by contract as provided by [this section](#).

b. The board of supervisors shall submit the question to the voters of the county residing outside of cities at the next general election. The petition shall be filed not less than ten days before the last day candidates may file nomination petitions for the election at which the question is to be submitted.

c. If a majority of those voting upon the question favors it, the board of supervisors shall within thirty days appoint a board of library trustees from residents of the petitioning area. Vacancies shall be filled by the board.

d. The board of trustees may contract with any library for library use or service for the benefit of the residents and area represented by it.

[S13, §592-a, 792-a; SS15, §422; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § **5859, 5861 – 5863**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §378.11, 378.13 – 378.15; C75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §358B.18; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1075]

83 Acts, ch 123, §166, 167, 209

C93, §336.18

2001 Acts, ch 56, §25, 26; 2001 Acts, ch 158, §36; 2002 Acts, ch 1134, §98, 99, 115

Referred to in [§331.321](#), [331.381](#)